

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for enhancing the growth of preterm infants comprising administering to said infants a growth enhancing amount of DHA and ARA.

5 2. The method of Claim 1 wherein DHA and ARA are supplemented into infant formula.

3. The method of Claim 1 wherein the ratio of ARA:DHA is 1:2 to 5:1.

10 4. The method of Claim 1 wherein the ratio of ARA:DHA is 1.1 to 3:1.

5. The method of Claim 1 wherein the ratio of ARA:DHA is about 2:1.

15 6. The method of Claim 2 wherein the infant formula comprises DHA in an amount of about 2 mg/100 kcal to about 50 mg/100 kcal and ARA in an amount of about 4 mg/100 kcal to about 100 mg/100 kcal.

7. The method of Claim 2 wherein the infant formula comprises DHA in an amount of about 5 mg/100 kcal to about 33 mg/100 kcal and ARA in an amount of about 10 mg/100 kcal to about 67 mg/100 kcal.

20 8. The method of Claim 2 wherein the infant formula comprises DHA in an amount of about 15 mg/100 kcal to about 20 mg/100 kcal and ARA in an amount of about 30 mg/100 kcal to about 40 mg/100 kcal.

9. The method of Claim 1 where the amount of time to achieve growth equivalent to normal terms breast fed infants is less than 9 months corrected age.

25 10. The method of Claim 1 wherein the amount of time to achieve growth equivalent to normal terms breast fed infants is less than 6 months corrected age.

30 11. The method of Claim 1 wherein the amount of time to achieve growth equivalent to normal terms breast fed infants is less than 4 months corrected age.

12. The method of Claim 1 wherein the amount of time to achieve growth equivalent to normal terms breast fed infants is less than 2 months corrected age.

5 13. The method of Claim 1 wherein the amount of time to achieve growth equivalent to normal terms breast fed infants is no greater than term corrected age.